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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/806,636

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EXAMINER

COBURN, CORBETT B

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3714

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/24/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/806,636	Applicant(s) SEELIG ET AL.	
	Examiner Corbett B. Coburn	Art Unit 3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 April 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14-16 and 18-66 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 24-56 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 14-16, 18-23 and 57-66 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The declaration filed on 9 April 2008 under 37 CFR 1.131 is sufficient to overcome the Silva reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-10, 14-16, 18-23 & 57-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordman (US Patent Number 6,712,694) in view of Brown (US Patent Number 5,673,504).

Claims 1: Nordman teaches a gaming device including a housing (10A) with a plurality of walls that define a cavity. Nordman teaches at least one moveable indicator (80) associated with the housing. There is a moveable indicator actuator (58B) configured to move the moveable indicator in a linear manner along a first axis. (Fig 3A) (The indicia move in a curvilinear fashion.) There is also a display device (60) with a plurality of indicia associated with the housing. There is a display device actuator (58A) configured to move the display device in a linear manner along a second axis, wherein the second axis is orthogonal to the first axis. (The indicia on the display device move in a curvilinear manner.) There is a one controller (38) in communication with the display device actuator and the moveable indicator actuator. (Fig 2) The controller is configured

to determine a game outcome, and to direct movement of the moveable indicator and the display device.

Nordman does not teach that the indicia are on a band of material. It is old and well known to place indicia on a moving band of material and it is equivalent to Nordman's display. Brown teaches a display device that makes use of a moving band of material. The combination of Nordman and Brown is within the level of ordinary skill. Each element of the combination performs in the expected manner to yield predictable results. Combining known elements in a known manner to yield predictable results is considered obvious.

Claims 2, 4, 58, 59, 60, 63, 64, 65: Nordman teaches a player input device (handle [18], or buttons [20, 24, 26], or touch screen [50]) coupled to the housing and in communication with the controller. The player input device allows a player to control the movement of at least one of the moveable indicator and the display device. The movable indicator & the display are activated by the input device. Thus, the input device allows the player to control the movement of the movable indicator & display. After the player has activated the player input device, the controller causes at least one of the display device and the moveable indicator to move such that the moveable indicator indicates an indicium on the display device that corresponds to the game outcome determined by the controller.

Claim 3: The player's input has no affect on the game outcome.

Claim 5: The indicia represent prizes a player may win.

Claim 6: Nordman teaches a free spin (Fig 1, 60). This is a game play prize.

Claims 7 & 12: Nordman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach vertical axes. As claims 8 & 13 make clear, the orientation of the axes is not a critical factor & is merely a matter of design choice.

Claims 8 & 13: Nordman teaches movement & rotation about a horizontal axis.

Claim 9: Nordman teaches indicia arranged on the display device in an m by n matrix, and m and n are integers. (Fig 5) It would be obvious place the indicia on a band as taught by Brown.

Claims 10, 66: Nordman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach a display with a belt between rollers. Brown teaches a chassis a plurality of rollers (Abstract) attached to the chassis and an actuator (electric motor) coupled to the roller. At least a portion of the display device is wrapped around the roller. (Fig 3) The actuator rotates the roller causing the display device to be rotated and move the indicia. (Abstract)

A combination of Nordman & Brown would yield predictable results. A combination of known elements, each performing their usual function, by known methods to yield predictable results is obvious.

Claims 14 & 15: There is a positioning system (56) for determining at least one position of the moveable indicator & display device.

Claims 16, 61: Brown teaches a plurality of idler rollers (15 & 16) at least one drive roller (12); and a motor (17) in communication with the drive motor, wherein at least a portion of the display device is in contact with the idler roller and driver roller and rotates about the idler roller and the drive roller when the drive roller is actuated by the motor.

Claim 18: Nordman teaches an embodiment in which, the moveable indicator actuator includes a motor in communication with a worm gear, the moveable indicator being affixed to the worm gear. (Fig 8)

Claim 19: The gaming device may be configured as a primary game. Col 3, 1-5 indicates that the game uses the indicated symbol “to provide a number of base game credits.” This indicates that it may be used as a base game.

Claim 20: The gaming device may be configured as a bonus game in association with a primary game. (Col 4, 26-36)

Claim 21: Nordman teaches a slot machine game as the base game.

Claims 22 & 23: Nordman teaches the invention substantially as claimed, but fails to teach the claimed arrangement of indicia. However, the arrangement of indicia in a slot machine is a matter of design choice well within the level of ordinary skill.

Claims 57 & 62: The combination of Nordman & Brown teaches the claimed invention with Nordman’s arrow (80) being the indicator & Brown’s tape or band substituting for Nordman’s display (100). As pointed out above, the orientation of the various elements is a matter of design choice.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims discussed above have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Corbett B. Coburn whose telephone number is (571) 272-4447. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pezzuto can be reached on (571) 272-6996. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3714

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Corbett B. Coburn/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3714